

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Applicant: | Tsutomu Okada | Examiner: | Unassigned |
| Serial No: | Unassigned | Art Unit: | Unassigned |
| Filed: | Herewith | Docket: | 17375 |
| For: | ENDOSCOPIC MUCOUS MEMBRANE RESECTION INSTRUMENT AND ENDOSCOPIC MUCOUS MEMBRANE RESECTION METHOD | Dated: | January 26, 2004 |

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. Japanese Patent Application KOKAI Publication No. 2001-275933, published October 9, 2001;
2. Japanese Patent Application KOKAI Publication No. 2002-45369, published February 12, 2002, corresponding to United States Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0053909 A1, published December 20, 2001, issued to Nakada et al.

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Dated: January 26, 2004

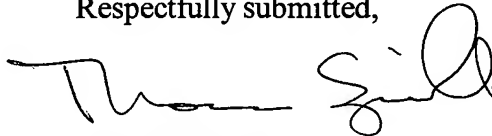

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3. Japanese UM Application KOKAI Publication No. 6-75402, published October 25, 1994; and
4. Japanese Patent Application No. 9-187415, published July 22, 1997, together with an English translation.

Applicant is submitting copies of the above-cited Japanese references. U.S. patents are no longer required per the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i) in effect as of June 30, 2003. The relevance of reference nos. 1-4 has been described in the specification.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in accordance with the schedule set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Spinelli', written over a horizontal line.

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| Form PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (REV. 7-80) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> | | | | Atty. Docket No. (Optional) 17375 | | Application Number Unassigned | |
| | | | | Applicant(s) Tsutomu Okada | | | |
| | | | | Filing Date Herewith | | Group Art Unit Unassigned | |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| EXAMINER INITIAL* | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE (if appropriate) |
| | AA | 2001/0053909 A1 | 12/20/01 | Nakada et al. | | | |
| | AB | | | | | | |
| | AC | | | | | | |
| | AD | | | | | | |
| | AE | | | | | | |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| | REF | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION |
| | | | | | | | YES NO |
| | | 2001-275933 | 10/9/01 | Japan | | | |
| | | 2002-45369 | 2/12/02 | Japan | | | |
| | | 6-75402 | 10/25/94 | Japan | | | |
| | | 9-187415 | 7/22/97 | Japan | | | |
| OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | | | | | | |
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| EXAMINER | | | | DATE CONSIDERED | | | |
| * EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | | | | | | | |